

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 014705
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JWSWIHART:JKB

APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR

EUR/CE - JJHURLEY

S/S -S. VALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 014705

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 8082

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN IN REFTEL (BEING REPEATED) THE TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 12 STATEMENT ON ITALY. AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS RETURNED TO ROME WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE CLEAR, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF STRICT NONINTERVENTION IN ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS, OUR CONCERN THAT ALLIANCE AND WESTERN INTERESTS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY COMMUNIST BEHAVIOR SHOULD THEIR ROLE IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BE ENLARGED.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT TO COORDINATE OUR VIEWS WITH OUR KEY EUROPEAN ALLIES. IN ADDITION WE ARE CONSIDERING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 014705

APPROACHING OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO KREISKY, GIVEN AUSTRIA'S PROXIMITY AND DIRECT INTEREST IN ITALY AND KREISKY'S PERSONAL STANDING AS A LEADING EUROPEAN SOCIALIST. IT OCCURS TO US THAT KREISKY MIGHT BE INCLINED TO USE THE FORTHCOMING SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

MEETING ON THE MIDEAST TO EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE OVER

ITALIAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS. ANY OTHER THOUGHTS
YOU MAY HAVE WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.

3. FYI: IN OUR ANALYSIS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT
ANDREOTTI WILL SUCCEED IN PUTTING TOGETHER ANOTHER GOVERN-
MENT ON A COMPROMISE BASIS, WITH FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO THE
COMMUNISTS, AND THEREBY AVOID NEW ELECTIONS. THE BASIC
TREND IN FAVOR OF GREATER COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION WILL NOT
HAVE BEEN HALTED, HOWEVER, AND FORMAL PARTICIPATION IS
POSSIBLE. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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